

M1180 SEATTLE, WASH. MAY 8, 1967

You have two machines going? Yes. Besides the third one...on which we have... Because that is what I had in mind...that we would play tonight, from the last tape of the meeting...of the meeting...of the last...of the tape of the meeting of the last meeting in San Francisco. I think it's appropriate. It's a meeting where we talked about a variety of things, and some are perhaps, new concepts. But, I first want to say something about a few things that I believe ought to be cleared up once and for all. In the first place, the open meeting; you talked about it Friday, and I listened to that part of the tape. There is very little sense in having an open meeting at the present time. We've had a few, I would almost say, several. And the usual result of that kind of a thing is a minimum. Because when you have an open meeting there is a certain interest aroused. Naturally it has to be followed up, and so far you have not been successful in following up or holding onto the people who did come or made a special effort. It may be that the type of people were not right or it may be some other way of not having them prepared well enough to know what they might fall into, but in any event, that is a pragmatic fact. And whatever is the reason why Seattle has not grown, as yet, sufficiently it is a little unfortunate, but nevertheless we have to admit or acknowledge it and it is not a question of putting the blame, but it is a question of looking at these things in a realistic way. And if I have an open meeting and again have two or three or five people about whom we don't know very much, usually that that has happened if you could actually convince them that there is something for them that they ought <sup>to</sup> come, you might say, "Wet their appetite", and of course you're entitled, afterwards, to talk to them and really argue that what was wrong with the meeting if they don't want to come back. But no such preparation has ever happened really, and perhaps in a few cases, but otherwise it has been left quite haphazardly. "Oh, I have a friend who - ", this and that and so forth. It's utter nonsense. Work doesn't proceed that way and unless you can find the proper person with whom you can talk beforehand, and sufficiently, and, then, that you are sure that there is a possibility that something can develop from it, then it is worthwhile to spend the time. But I think the position of any two that in a group of let's say twenty people, and three or four are new, that the to

will be adjusted to the few people who will come is not right for the rest of you. If there is any question - if you want to ask questions about Work which I think can be a little easier solved when I'm here, instead of having to put them on a tape and waiting for an answer from me from New York. It's very important to see it in that light because again and again and I will keep on repeating this, there has to be a vitality in this group and you should have it and you should work more for it because there is not enough at the present time. And noone can tell me that there are not enough people in Seattle who couldn't be interested in Work, but you have to dig them out, perhaps it's a little bit more difficult, nevertheless, of course, they exist. That is one thing. In the second place, you have to have a clearing house. So that you don't have to expose people who are more or less curiosity seekers or might be interested, that you immediately expose them to a group two meeting. Because with a group two, the assumption is that they really should already be interested, and when you talked about it that, at least, they know approximately what you want to talk about. At the same time there is room for something that actually could function as a clearing house to set up whoever may be of curiosity or interested in the curiosity of the ideas and gradually straighten it out so that perhaps, the, they could come to another group. Now you must keep in mind that the accent of the groups in Seattle are still here with Andy and that regardless of what you will do outside of that on your own or, perhaps with a sanction of a certain kind, it's quite right, and, from that standpoint, I said that this question of the third group came up. By all means go ahead, but of course it was also my intention, and it should be known, and not kept a secret. And I've suggested that. I think you were a little reluctant about that because you were afraid. There is no reason to be afraid. There is no reason to have any objection of having a group, even of young people, sit together and talk, same way as there is no objection to have any discussion when you want to have coffee, or sit and have a meeting, and talked about Work or that you telephoned each other. All these kind of things of course are quite right, but the accent is in group two and in group one, and that has been established by Andy here and it will be maintained as far as I'm concerned. So I'm not frowning at all at group three. I think it is perfectly wonderful, and if, for some reason or other you felt that you want to meet

without some of the people present because it may not be so easy every once in a while to ask a certain question when there is a difference between people who are a little older and have different kind of experience and that sometimes you may not feel at home or perhaps even that the tape, when it is taken, that that might affect you in some way or other, it's quite right. And you have a perfect right to meet, and do whatever you like. But you see this, now group three, if one will want to call it that way and again there is no objection. There is no automatic change over from group three to group one to group two. Because it doesn't. Andy remains the responsible person for group two and group one. Group three is among you and you can continue and I hope you will, and I hope you introduce many people so that certain things can be straightened out if you don't have to waste too much time about extraneous things which, of course, all these people want to talk about so that group two, when they come there, and if they are accepted and that then you can talk about Work and Work and it does not mean that when you have this little group by itself that that is a substitute for real Work. Because you don't know real Work. Not even in group three. Even if you want to talk about it, you don't know enough. Andy and the older ones here know more about Work than any of you young ones. But it doesn't mean that you young ones will have to take everything that they say, and it does not mean that you have to agree necessarily because they happen to say it in your presence. You Work. And whenever you come to group two or group one you contribute from yourself what is there as Work in you and never mind the little jealousies and the ideas that such and such and this and that should not take place. I think the name splinter group was mentioned - there is no more absurd word for this. There would be a splinter group if I have a telephone conversation with someone who I don't know simply because I mention something about Work to that kind of a person as if I, then, as it were, splinter off from the rest of the group in New York. Work is Work when it is correct, and it doesn't matter where and how and when you talk about it but when you are honestly and sincerely interested in Work you don't really care at all where you get the information or even with whom you should associate when there is in you a definite desire that you want to Work for yourself. Then almost any place will be good when you wish and don't think too much about who is who and that they are there and so forth you don't

like very much. Maybe they don't like you and maybe you don't have the right attitude and instead of making it separate, instead of having something that you want to keep of your own and, perhaps, be a little secretive about, be open whenever it has to do with something that concerns you and it is serious enough, it is worthwhile enough to bring it out whenever there is an opportunity and there is no question about the seriousness. It is a question sometimes about honesty, because sometimes you may not believe people and still regarding themselves, they are honest. But maybe that you don't understand and maybe they don't understand your honesty. But the seriousness is another matter. That is why you come together and that is why you derive from certain groups a certain impetus or a stimulus or something that then concerns you and with that you go home and with that you come back and you make up your mind that during the time you work as well as you can and then the clearing house of the common ground or the fields where you try to explain about your own experimentations and whatever it may be that then there is something that will be received in the proper way. And never mind how sometimes a person may talk a little too long or may use words that you don't really...are familiar with or that is outside of your field or the manner in which it is sometimes said. What is the difference? You may not like certain things that I say and in my way of saying it and maybe you don't like it sometimes that the tone of voice is a little bit emotionally tinted. But what is the difference when I talk about something that is really of worthwhile to you and when it represents a certain form of truth or, in any event, a possibility of seeing that something could be done if you take such ideas, for whatever they are, into your own life and then work with it. And if you want to report on it, then simply report: this is it, this is me, this is how I work, this is the way it affected me, this is the kind of result that I reached, this is what I think of it, this is...I would like to know if it is correct. If I happen to think this way but, after all, my experience is the thing that counts, and no one else even telling about their own experience will ever have that same kind of a value as that what I have experienced myself. That's the proper attitude and it is much simpler, and you make it much too complicated and you talk too much about it. Meet whenever you wish. Read whatever books you wish. See whoever is doing what and see if it helps you to clarify

your own mind. I draw lines at certain points when it has to do with the particular level of a person because there has to be a very definite wish to want to understand something about your own life and what the problems you might have and that, then, you believe and you hope that, in following the ideas, and trying to put into practice, you will find a solution. That is where I draw a line because a person who is still too much, riding too many horses at the same time, they will never do very much in the direction of Gurdjieff. So you see, whenever you want to bring a new person you don't want to bring them simply because they have never heard of the word Gurdjieff until you mentioned it, and then they say who is that, and so forth, well, that ought to be interesting and then they come. Keep them away from this house. If you want to see them in a restaurant or even if, and Bob and Sherry it is alright, as I say, as a clearing house of some kind and it can be very serious and very good and perhaps sometimes quite useful and maybe also needful, but no more of that. Real Work you can get out of tapes from New York. You can get it out of people who have lived with it for some time. And they will tell you and, quite honestly they will tell you whatever they think that is right and they know, and you still can take it and then see if you can digest it. So let there be no division. I do not acknowledge the division. As I've said before, the contact remains without any question whatsoever with Andy. He is the head of this group and all activities of this kind, as far as I'm concerned, in Seattle, belong to him. To what extent there can be improvements or certain things that can be done a little differently, you straighten it out among yourselves. But don't ever lose track of the one thing - why. Why do we even send tapes? Why do we correspond? Why do I come? Why do we have meetings? For one purpose only. To find yourself. And to see what can be done with that Self. And to see how much you can live with it. And what you believe is good or, at least, useful for the future growth and, if possible, an evolution of a certain kind. I want to say this because I don't like to have little differences that stick around and are not solved, and when there are any questions of that kind again and again and that there are certain things that you don't like about each other and you consider it that I could act as an arbiter, that you then write and say, "It is this, what will we do?" But I'm quite certain that such an action is not necessary because you have enough people

with enough brains and enough willingness to sit together and really straighten it out until it becomes clear and then it will be if you (?) yourself around that is, you can actually work with it. Now, the reason I would like to have you listen to these other tapes...it was a question of responsibility which came up in San Francisco because, as you know, we have there a loft that is now being used for activities of the group, and it is centrally located in San Francisco, so it has an advantage for both Berkeley and Palo Alto. And also the groups are growing, and there has to be a central place where definite activities can continue and relieve the use of private houses which so far has been, to say the least, a little troublesome. So for that, in the first place, to take the responsibility of having that place, and of course everything that is involved in it regarding rent to pay and the different things that - electricity, and telephone and so forth. Work has to be done on it which will cost money. And this brought up the question of money and with that I started, on this particular evening, and it has to do with the responsibility of the group - a group, a group as a whole. And it applies in principle also to Seattle, it will apply to Portland, it will apply to any kind of a group with which I hope to be familiar and for which I would like to take a certain small responsibility since the greatest part of the responsibility of a group is with the group and not with me. So, from that kind of a statement in the beginning, it started to lead in different directions and it ended up as a...as a tape, (as?) a meeting quite seriously at the end of having in it material which I thought would be useful and would give a certain background and perhaps perspective towards Work in general...where is really the place of Work? And what belongs to Work? And what doesn't? And, from one thing to another, it was a tape of an hour and a half which I think we finished just about the end of the tape. So instead of waiting (up or out?) too long, I don't mind listening to it again. I don't mind that some of the people who have already heard it, will again listen to it, because as is usual with these kind of meetings, after you get through, you don't remember 25% of it and most likely you will make some statements of, "Was that in it?" or "I never heard that", or "I didn't hear it that way". So I think for those who have heard it once it's alright to hear it again. And for those who have not heard it as yet, it, I hope, it will be useful. So, Andy, let's play it.

- tape was played -

Because it's a terribly difficult, almost monotonous kind of a meeting? And when you strain yourself to try to follow it, you run off, because you don't have enough energy for it. You want to try to contain it, and when you try to contain it it takes too much, and you close yourself up. And in order to remain really open you should just relax. And if sleep overtakes you, sleep. Because that are the times that you really can hear it - at that time you will derive something from it. It's not your brain, it is how you are. The way you're feeling it, yielding to the possibility of really trying to understand it...What you should do, and that you take from this kind of a thing. The little things, it's the small things, not everything - just a little of that what I feel, and I would almost say, you put that in your pocket and you go out and then you come to yourself. So. It's late. See you tomorrow. Tomorrow, we'll...we'll talk about Work. Questions, answers. If there are some new people so it's alright, because it will be just about the only time that we can talk about this. Thursday, I do not know yet, what you will do. Wednesday there will not be a meeting. Concentrate on tomorrow. And on Friday we will be in Portland, Thursday, Andy mentioned something about playing of harmonium or talking to people. If that is reasonable (?). Good night. Rest well. I hope it was much too much for you.